

McAdams steps up for Tribe

Redshirt freshman capitalizes on an opportunity in goal for the College. See SPORTS FEATURE page 10



Need for speed

Junior Daniel Byler's speed reading class has rapidly gained popularity as it raises money for charity. See SPEED page 6

The Flat Hat

The twice-weekly student newspaper of the College of William and Mary ♦ Est. 1911

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FLATHATNEWS.COM

Few Pell students at College

College is fifth-worst for percentage getting Pell grants

By ALEX GUILLÉN
Flat Hat Assoc. Reviews Editor

Rankings released by Washington Monthly reveal that the College ranks fifth among national universities for lowest percentage of students receiving Pell grants — only 9 percent — and second among public universities scored. Pell grants are educational federal grants that provide up to \$4,310 per year for educational expenses. Washington University in St. Louis topped the list at 7 percent; Princeton University, the University of Virginia and Wake Forest University each scored 8 percent. The College tied for fifth with Harvard University.

“The lower your family’s expected contribution, the greater the amount you’ll be able to get as a Pell grant,” economics Professor David Feldman said.

Because the grant is based on financial need, some researchers use the percentage of students who receive grants to measure economic diversity in a student body.

“The question about whether or not a family is poor depends upon how the federal government calculates the expected family contribution,” Robert Archibald, an economics professor and expert in higher education economics, said. “Most students from families in the bottom half of the income distribution are probably Pell-eligible. This means that both the really poor and the moderately poor are Pell-eligible.”

However, the statistic does not mean that the College’s student body is necessarily wealthy.

“The 9 percent Pell-eligible statistic tells us that 91 percent of the [College] student body comes from the upper half of the income distribution,” Archibald said. “There could be a large number of people whose incomes are just a bit too high to make them Pell-eligible ... If this were true, our student body would be solidly middle class, not rich.”

According to Feldman, the College is not currently providing enough financial aid to students; he cited the state budget crunch as a major factor.

“At present [the College] does not meet every dollar of demonstrated financial need for its incoming students,” he said. “The state’s money allocated to financial aid is not sufficient for the College to do it, and the College itself hasn’t allocated enough money of its own toward aid, and away from other things, to do it.”

Archibald said that the statistic reveals more about

See PELL page 4

PUPPY LOVE



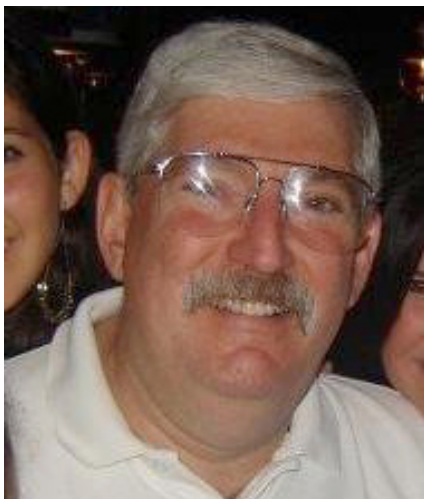
ALEX HAGLUND — THE FLAT HAT
Students petted dogs at the U.C. Terrace during “Paws to Relax,” an activity promoting stress relief as part of H.O.P.E.’s Mental Health Awareness Week.

Alumnus’s dad missing in Iran

By SAM SUTTON
Flat Hat Staff Writer

The Iranian government granted visas to the family of former FBI agent Robert Levinson — father of Dan Levinson ’06 — who was reported missing nearly seven months ago while investigating the smuggling of cigarettes.

According to comments made by Robert Levinson’s wife Christine to the



COURTESY PHOTO — HELPROBLEVINSON.COM
The father of an alumnus has been missing in Iran for seven months.

Associated Press and USA Today, Iranian officials notified her of the visa’s clearance Sept. 22 of this year. The granting of the visa was the result of a letter Mrs. Levinson wrote to Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki. Mrs. Levinson wished to travel to Iran to find any information that may lead to Robert Levinson’s whereabouts.

In a message posted on a Facebook page dedicated to the search for Mr. Levinson, the family said that they are still in the process of planning the trip, and that a date of departure has not yet been established. Dan Levinson is among those who were able to obtain a visa.

An Iranian press release published soon after the visas were granted said that there is no evidence indicating Bob Levinson is still in Iran. The release continued with the wish that “this trip may in any way help allay Christine Levinson’s concern and anxiety as well as that of the Levinson family, the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran welcome this trip and will spare no efforts to help them during their stay in Iran.

See IRAN page 4

Salaries safe from cuts

Salaries remain below those of peer institutions, but College catching up

By MAXIM LOTT
Flat Hat Deputy News Editor

Despite the prospect of losing 6.25 percent of state funding, professor salaries will not be reduced, Vice President of Finance Sam Jones said in an interview. Future salary increases, including one scheduled for November, will also remain unaffected.

Jones said the College has been working to increase professor salaries to better compete with peer institutions, which are universities with similar student bodies and resources. Professors at the College receive salaries that are around the 37th percentile of their counterparts at peer institutions, according to the most recent study done by the Office of Institutional Research in April 2007. This is an increase from two years ago when The Flat Hat reported that College professors earned in the 20th percentile of peer institutions.

The state of Virginia requires public universities to aim for the 60th percentile among their peer group. “Our target is to get to [the 60th percentile] by 2010,” Jones said.

To achieve this, the Board of Visitors has approved average raises for faculty of 5 percent each year over the past two years. Since pay is based on merit, five percent was only an average, and many professors got more or less than that person.

Jones also said that the College’s peer group had recently been adjusted to account for changes in universities. Although an official evaluation is still in progress, he says that he expects the change to portray the College in a better light than before. “[The new percentile] will probably be in the mid- to high- 40’s.”

Salaries at the College rank above the national university average, and it is only when compared to peer institutions that the College falls short.

The Flat Hat has also obtained a detailed breakdown of all professor salaries at the College. The data indicates that professors in business and the sciences earn significantly more than those in most social sciences and artistic fields. For instance, while the average salary of law professors is over \$150,000, the average salaries of music professors is just over a third of that, at \$57,000.

“This is a long-standing situation in faculty salaries,” Associate Provost Lorne Kuffel said in an e-mail. “It is associated with market pressure. Fields that have higher salaries outside of the university tend to have the higher salaries within the university. Market pressure often drives the salaries up for faculty in business, engineering and the physical sciences. Departments also differ widely in total expenditures. While the business department spends nearly \$7 million

See SALARIES page 4

Expelling students called ‘last resort’

By ANDY GARDEN
Flat Hat Staff Writer

The April 16 shootings at Virginia Tech raised concerns that students exhibiting potentially harmful behaviors may need to be removed from campuses. However, according to Patricia Volp, the College’s dean of students, and Dave Gilbert, assistant dean of students and director of Judicial Affairs, expulsion as

a judicial sanction is an option of last resort.

In 2005, the Dean of Students Office handled 472 judicial cases at the graduate and undergraduate levels. According to Dean Gilbert, three cases ended in permanent dismissal from the College, and three others resulted in the student resigning from the College permanently prior to trial.

See EXPELLED page 4

Gooch Hall floods with sewage

By KARA STARR
Flat Hat Assoc. News Editor

Last Sunday, Gooch Hall experienced a bathroom flood caused by a clog in the sewage line, resulting in the entire first floor flooding with raw sewage and the evacuation of eight students to the Hospitality House on Richmond Road.

The problem continued for three days while the clog was repaired and the affected spaces were inspected and cleaned.

“The College does take lots of preventative measures when it comes to draining, but problems can still arise from time to time,” Deb Boykin, director of Residence Life, said.

The clog was found in the bathroom in the first floor quad, located off the upper lounge, Sunday morning when the toilet flooded through the bathroom and

the room. The residents called in an emergency work order.

“The residents who were in the room moved most of their belongings out of [their] room and placed them right outside Gooch. Maintenance personnel arrived on the scene to assess the situation, and then called in a plumber, more maintenance personnel, and a cleaning crew. [Over] the next few hours, the plumber and other maintenance personnel worked diligently to try and fix the problems,” Residence Assistant Vince Norako ’09 said.

After the original clog was repaired, the quad was cleaned. At around 7 p.m., however, the sewage line backed up again, this time affecting all of the toilets on the first floor, including the quad, the Area Director’s office, and the triple, which is located off the lower lounge.



ALEX HAGLUND — THE FLAT HAT
The first floor of Gooch flooded last Sunday due to a sewage clog.

Residence Life evacuated the eight affected residences and paid for the students to stay at the Hospitality House for three days.

“Once it became apparent that the problem would not be fixed before late [that] evening, the College had the residents

that were affected by the flood [sent] to the Hospitality House. The College also activated all of Gooch’s residents’ [swipe cards] to [have] access [to] Dinwiddie and Nicholson to use their bathrooms,” Norako said.

See GOOCH page 4

NEWSINSIGHT

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The Flat Hat

‘Stabilitas et Fides’

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Corrections

In Tuesday’s article titled “Julia O’Brien: An SA Hoax,” The Flat Hat mistakenly stated the Student Assembly Sen. Matt Beato ’09 helped create the facebook profile.

The Flat Hat wishes to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Corrections may be submitted by e-mail to the section editor in which the incorrect information was printed. Requests for corrections will be accepted at any time.


Weather

Friday




High 85°
Low 66°

Saturday



High 88°
Low 62°

Sunday



High 89°
Low 65°

Source: www.weather.com

Quotes of the Week

“It’s not that it’s hard to get dismissed, it’s that we’re very judicious in sending students home.”
—Assistant Dean of Students Dave Gilbert on the College considering expulsion as a last resort.
See **EXPULSED** page 1

News in Brief

SA approves pass-fail option

The Student Assembly swore in newly elected representatives and passed two bills related to academics during Tuesday’s senatorial session. It was the first senate meeting for Sens. Ronnie Wang ’11, Michael Douglass ’11, Britney Falon ’11, Ben Brown ’11 and Alex Kyrios ’09.

The Pass-Fail Option for Underclassmen Act, the first bill debated by the senate, passed unanimously. The act allows freshmen and sophomores taking more than 15 credit hours to take one class pass-fail. Although the bill was unanimously passed by the senate, it still must be approved by the administration. When asked whether he thought the administration would enforce the bill, its sponsor, Sen. Matt Skibiak ’08 said, “It’s definitely worth a try.”

The Reasonable Final Exam Act, also sponsored by Skibiak, was passed 12-0-2. The act moves the earliest possible time for finals from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. After the room applauded him for being the first freshman senator to speak up, Douglass made a motion to postpone the vote until after the registrar’s office could be contacted and possible scheduling conflicts could be evaluated. This motion failed and most senators agreed that pushing all exams back two hours would create minimal conflicts. Like the previous act, The Reasonable Final Exam Act requires administrative approval.

The Elections Commission announced that last week’s elections went smoothly and there were no problems with the Student Information Network (SIN). The senate had previously debated paying a third party to hold all student elections; however, it is now a possibility that the elections commission will continue to use the student-run and cost-free SIN.

— by Russ Zerbo

By the Numbers

36 percent

The percentage of freshman dorm rooms in air-conditioned buildings. The only freshman dorms that are air conditioned are Dupont and Yates Halls.

46 percent

The increase in the number of digitally downloaded tracks over the last year, now at 612 million. Total sales of albums fell 14 percent over the same period to 300.6 million, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

79 million

The number of trees Indonesia says it will plant on one day in December, just before a U.N. Climate Change summit. Indonesia had the fastest rate of deforestation in the world from 2000 to 2005, according to Greenpeace.

496,022 miles

The length of duct tape that has been sold in the past decade by Duck brand duct tape.

— by Maxim Lott



COURTESY PHOTO — MICHAEL DAVID MURPHY
The Rev. Al Sharpton and talk show host Michael Baisden at the Jena Six rally last month.

BEYOND THE BURG

University newspaper prints controversial photos

Grambling State Univ. paper’s noose photos gain national attention

By ISSHIN TESHIMA
Flat Hat Insight Editor

Grambling State University in Grambling, La., began an investigation of the school newspaper Monday after the newspaper printed photographs of teachers putting nooses around children’s necks at nearby, university-run Alma J. Brown Elementary School. The school newspaper, The Gramblinite, stated that the adults were teaching students about the “Jena Six” and how nooses were a symbol of racism in American society.

The Gramblinite’s online website removed three photographs from the event after a staff conference call. University President Horace Judson ordered the removal of all traces of the article regarding the event this past weekend and the newspaper responded by

taking down the controversial photos and re-posting 10 different, non-controversial images on Monday.

“We do not approve of censorship or prior review,” the current Gramblinite editor-in-chief De’Eric M. Henry told Fox News. “We stand by our editorial decision to inform the students of Grambling State University of news events that affect them.”

Presently, the photos are no longer on the Gramblinite’s website pending investigation by the university. However, a lengthy debate of reader comments still remains on the website. Many were disapproving of the photographs, but some realized that restraining circulation of the pictures would be a violation of civil rights.

“When will administrators and faculty learn that you cannot stifle the First Amendment in

misguided attempts to appease nervous community members and ill informed alumni?” Dr. Elizabeth F. Desnoyers-Colas, assistant professor of communication at Armstrong Atlantic State University, said.

Grambling State University, which is an historically black college, has had previous disputes with The Gramblinite. Last January, Provost Robert Dixon ordered the newspaper to stop publication, citing bad editing and plagiarism as the cause. Although the newspaper was deemed “appropriate” the next week, Dixon’s move was widely criticized by both alumni as well as the Student Press Law Center in Arlington, Va. and then-Gramblinite editor Darryl Smith.

“The Gramblinite only did what our motto stands for: ‘We don’t make the news; we report it,’” Henry said.

STREET BEAT

What is the most provocative act you have done at the College?



I fell down in one of the buildings and had bruises all over.

Xavier Becker ’10



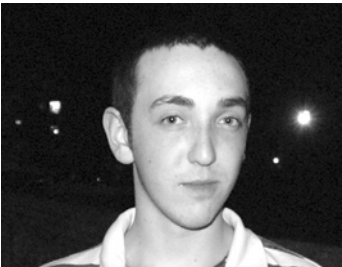
I’m a freshman. I haven’t done [anything] yet.

Adam Kauder ’11



I have yet to do anything provocative.

Emil Trinidad ’11



I sacrificed an animal.

Spencer Howie ’11

— photos and interviews by Spencer Atkinson

CAMPUS POLICE BEAT

Sept. 25 to Oct. 1



Tuesday, Sept. 25 — Parking services reported that a student’s car was wheel-locked because the car had a stolen parking decal. The student turned herself in.

— A student reported a stolen laptop worth \$1,000 stolen from Swem Library. The crime occurred sometime the previous day. **1**

Wednesday, Sept. 26 — A \$350 iPod was reported stolen from Adair Hall. **2**

— A student reported that his unlocked, unregistered bicycle worth \$70 was stolen around 10:30 a.m. from Spotswood Hall. **3**

Friday, Sept. 28 — A College bookstore employee reported that \$25 of inventory had been shoplifted. The suspect was not in the store when the complaint was filed, but the employee knew the alledged shoplifter. **4**

Saturday, Sept. 29 — A caller stated that loud music was coming from a Ludwell Apartment. A group of students was referred for having an illegal party. **5**

Sunday, Sept. 30 — A homemade bicycle worth \$50 was stolen from Unit M. The subject stated that the bicycle had just been made into a condition in which it was safe to ride the previous day. **6**

Monday, Oct. 1 — A student reported that his registered bicycle worth \$100 was stolen from Spotswood Hall. **3**

— A bicycle worth \$250 was stolen from Giles Hall. **7**

— Two iPods worth \$300 each were stolen from the Rec Center. **8**

—compiled by Isshin Teshima

**Massachusetts School of
Professional Psychology**
221 Rivermoor Street
Boston, MA 02132

Expulsion rare at College Pell grants fifth fewest in nation

EXPULLED *from page 1*

“It’s not that it’s hard to get dismissed, it’s that we’re very judicious in sending students home. It’s a privilege to be here, but we don’t discount the efforts students have put in to be here,” Gilbert said.

Records show that only a few students were dismissed from the College from 2002 to 2005 because of honor council violations. Dean Volp added that there were only a handful of resignations and dismissals during that period.

According to the Sept. 25 issue of the Virginian-Pilot, the University of Virginia recorded 115 dismissals over the past five years. During the same period, Virginia Military Institute had 67 dismissals, Old Dominion University and Radford University each had 50, and Christopher Newport University had 33. The Pilot article said that most other Virginia schools ranked low in dismissals of students.

“It’s not with a light heart that people are sent home, and we only apply that permanent sanction in cases that need it,” Gilbert said.

According to Gilbert, the Dean of Students Office looks at each case with the primary goal of student rehabilitation.

“There isn’t one goal, so it’s a balancing act to find a sanction that meets those multiple goals,” he said. “We look at helping the student learn to make better choices, better decisions, to help them mature.”

Gilbert said permanent dismissal would be reserved for a student whose behavior has demonstrated that he or she is unwilling to learn. Gilbert said that he could only think of one type of person who met that description.

“By and large we don’t have people who have no

[respect for] the environment and no respect for other people,” Volp said. “It’s a very rare event where we come across someone who basically should not have a degree from [the College].”

Gilbert and Volp described their approach to violations of the Code of Conduct in terms of how they affect the community.

“If you look at someone underage and they have a beer, yeah, they’re violating the law, but the gravity of harm is different from someone who is intoxicated, who is being violent, stealing things or getting behind the wheel of a car,” Gilbert said.

Despite the fact that the Dean of Students Office does not handle honor code violations, Volp added that cheating is another behavior of great concern to the administration.

“Cheating is an extremely disgusting [behavior] and of concern because it devalues everyone’s diploma. That’s the type of thing that might make it more real,” Volp said.

Volp also referenced a recent case involving former College student Curtis White, who would have graduated last May, noting that breaking into administrative computers to change grades would be at the top of her list for bad behaviors.

While permanent dismissals are rare, both Volp and Gilbert said that it is not uncommon for a student to be suspended until they are ready to return to the school.

“Typically when we send a student home for a while, it is with the expectation of welcoming them back, and welcoming them back with open arms,” Gilbert said.

Gilbert said that permanent dismissal would usually only result from the accumulation of sanctions and an inability to learn from them.

PELL *from page 1*

the College’s recruiting situation and image than the financial circumstances of the student body.

“What [this] tells you is that the Ivies have done a better job of publicizing the financial aid they have to offer, and perhaps their financial aid is more generous and perhaps they do more targeting recruiting,” Archibald said.

Statistics obtained from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia reveal that, between 1992 and 2006, the last year for which information was available, the number of students admitted each year who received Pell grants at the College fluctuated between 429, the lowest number, and 564, the highest. In the 2005-2006 school year, 437 incoming students received Pell grants. Of those, 359, or 82.2 percent, were in-state students, while only 78, or 17.8 percent, were out-of-state.

These numbers contrast sharply with the ratio of total in-state and out-of-state students: 65 percent are in-state and 35 percent are out-of-state, according to the admissions department.

Associate Provost for Enrollment Earl Granger provided The Flat Hat with the 2007-2008 acceptance rate data. 59.7 percent of the Pell-eligible applicants were offered admission, whether or not they accepted the aid.

This acceptance rate is almost twice that of the overall student body, which has a 34 percent acceptance rate for the Class of 2011. Granger pointed out that in past years the College has become involved in several initiatives in an effort to attract members of lower socio-economic classes.

“The most visible initiative is the Gateway program, which is a financial aid packaging tool for Virginians,” Granger said.

The Gateway program pro-

Fewest Pell Grants

1. Washington University
2. Princeton University
3. University of Virginia
4. Wake Forest University
5. William and Mary
6. Harvard University
7. George Washington Univ.
8. Northwestern University
9. University of Delaware
10. University of Oklahoma

vides students with the full or near-full cost of college each year. Archibald and Feldman agreed that to create a more diverse student body — a major goal of College President Gene Nichol — the College has to create a better public image by properly advertising the available financial aid.

“I think that the College is... not seen as welcoming to students from the bottom half of the income distribution,” Archibald said.

Alum’s dad missing

IRAN *from page 1*

Although Iran granted visas to the family, as recently as a month ago authorities refused to allow officials from the Swiss embassy, acting on behalf of American interests, to investigate. Iranian officials have closed their investigation on the matter.

Robert Levinson was last seen on the Kish Island, a free trade zone in Iran that does not require a visa to visit, after meeting with Dawud Salahuddin, an American who has been in exile since 1980 after assassinating a Shah-affiliated diplomat in Maryland.

Salahuddin claims the purpose of the meeting was to put Levinson in contact with Iranian government officials who would assist him in his investigation into cigarette smuggling.

According to the Financial Times, there is speculation that Iranian authorities may have kidnapped Levinson following the meeting in retaliation for the detainment of five Iranian officials in the United States.

In the ensuing months, family and friends of Levinson launched a campaign to find the former FBI agent. Friends of the Levinsons at the College sent e-mails to U.N. delegations in an effort to put pressure on the Iranian government to release information regarding Levinson and grant visas to the family.

The family’s website, called helpboblevinson.com, estimates that the drive notified thousands of people of the situation.

Salaries catch up to peers

SALARIES *from page 1*

on its 53 faculty members, the art department allocates under \$1 million to its 16 professors. Some departments have a wide range of salaries, while in others, professors have relatively equal salaries. The physics department was the least similar, with three times more variance than the American studies department, where salaries are most similar. Some professors also make far from average. A chemistry professor who works year round earns a salary of \$256,597. Department Chair Gary Rice said that the professor has been at the College for a long time.

Students evacuate flooded dorm

GOOCH *from page 1*

Once the pipe had been completely flushed, the contracted cleaners were brought back in, working until 12:30 a.m. Monday to ensure that everything was hygienic. Additionally, the heating, ventilation and air conditioning vents were all cleaned and the filters were replaced as a precautionary measure.

“The first maintenance person was there from 10 [a.m.] to around 2 a.m. in the morning, and I personally saw him working at another part of campus [the next day]. I am truly glad to have such compassionate and hard-working people to serve the student body on this campus,” Norako said.

Residence Life also replaced all of the dormitory furniture in the students’ rooms and laundered all of the residences’ clothes and linens.

The Environmental Health and Safety Office, which is overseen by Facilities Management,

inspected the dorms and lounges with a UV light, which would reveal traces of human waste. Although none was detected, the inspectors still recommended several of the measures that were taken by Residence Life to be sure that no potential contamination was untreated.

The two first floor RAs, Norako and Maria Trogolo ’10, kept residents informed with updates on the situation and posted signs to let students know not to use the water in the building.

2007 Celebration of Summer Research

Last summer, W&M students conducted research across the globe.

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OPINIONS

STAFF EDITORIAL

Renew Nichol’s contract

Rector Michael Powell’s e-mail last Friday informed the College community that the Board of Visitors will reach a decision on whether to extend College President Gene Nichol’s contract this spring. The e-mail came as somewhat of a surprise, and seems to provide ominous undertones for Nichol, who has experienced a turbulent tenure as president, largely as a result of the Wren cross controversy.

Despite his difficulties over the past year, Nichol merits a short contract extension from the BOV. It has always been this editorial board’s stance that Nichol acted irresponsibly in removing the Wren

cross without consulting the College community, but we do not believe that he has done anything so egregious as to warrant losing his job. He brings several positive attributes to the College. He has

made our school a more inclusive environment by extending efforts to provide education to those who could not otherwise afford it. He is generally well liked by students and is a visible and affable campus figure, often roaming the sidelines of Zable Stadium chatting with students and visitors.

Popularity alone should not save Nichol. As president of the College, Nichol is fundraiser-in-chief, in charge of advancing the financial well-being of the College. This past year, the College notched an encouraging endowment growth compared to previous fiscal years. In his third year as College president, Nichol has updated his role by passing off some of

the day-to-day management of the College to Provost Geoffrey Feiss, focusing instead on fundraising and alumni relations. This power reconfiguration is an essential step toward ensuring that Nichol avoids micromanaging, which leads to mistakes like last year’s Wren cross debacle.

Some may argue that Nichol waited too long to redefine his role. However, as a newcomer to the College whose only previous ties were three years as a law professor in the 1980s, it was important for Nichol to learn the lay of the land, meet students, faculty and alumni and establish

the general relationship with the College that is vital as president. This doesn’t excuse lackluster fundraising efforts, but the BOV would be unwise to release him just as he has gotten his feet wet and begun promising efforts to improve the College.

The BOV is likely to receive a host of submissions from concerned students, alumni and parents regarding Nichol’s contract. The future of the College is at stake, and the decision is not one to be taken lightly. But it is also not a decision that should be based upon one misstep. A compromise has been reached on the Wren cross issue that is suitable for all parties, and it seems that Nichol has moved forward and expanded his money-raising campaigns. A second term for Nichol would allow him to continue with these efforts and display fundraising leadership to match the devotion he has shown for the College.

[Nichol] brings several positive attributes to the College ... He is generally well liked by students and is a visible and affable campus figure.

The Flat Hat welcomes submissions to the Opinions section. Letters to the Editor and Opinions columns are due at 5 p.m. Sunday for publication the following Tuesday and at 5 p.m. Wednesday for the following Friday. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced, and must include the author’s name, telephone number and any relevant titles or affiliations with campus or national groups. Letters may be no more than 300 words; columns may be no more than 700 words. Letters must be e-mailed to opinions@flathatnews.com. The Flat Hat reserves the right to edit all material. Because of space limitations, The Flat Hat may not publish all submissions. The Flat Hat Editorial Board meets before each issue to discuss the position taken by editorials. Unsigned editorials are written by a designated member of the Editorial Board. All Board editorials reflect the consensus of the Editorial Board. Letters, columns, graphics and cartoons reflect the view of the author only.

In support of Nichol

Max Fisher

FLAT HAT CHIEF STAFF WRITER



It seems a little ridiculous to discuss the renewal of College President Gene Nichol’s contract as if there existed any legitimate debate about the quality of his tenure.

In his first two years, he started the Gateway Initiative, a ground-breaking program that allows the College to foster greater racial and social diversity without compromising its rigorous admissions standards. He publicly defended student rights as members of the Williamsburg community, especially with regards to voting. He recruited Sandra Day O’Connor to replace humiliating former Chancellor Henry Kissinger. O’Connor has been ranked among the top 10 most powerful women in America by several widely read magazines. And, most recently, he increased the College’s financial holdings by about 20 percent in a single year.

And yet, the issue of Nichol’s renewal has become so contentious that Board of Visitor’s Rector Michael Powell created an e-mail account dedicated to hearing arguments. A handful of websites have sprung up for the sole purpose of defending or attacking Nichol. On the attack is the alumni-run shouldnicholberenewed.org, which launched in reaction to the moving of the Wren cross. Two websites have since launched in defense: the student-run iheartnichol.com and the jointly student- and alumni-run wmfightback.blogspot.com.

So what’s all the fighting about? Despite the ear-shattering pitch of Nichol’s detractors, there are few of them out there. They are primarily composed of a few very vocal alumni, who have spent months blogging away on their own sites (as well as on flathatnews.com, which has become the unofficial dumping ground for crazed Nichol detractors who are ignored everywhere else), mostly citing Nichol’s weight and physical appearance rather than his actual policies or actions.

Let’s do some rough math to see just how popular or unpopular Nichol really is. shouldnicholberenewed.org’s petition for Nichol’s contract to not be renewed, which has been open nearly a year, claims 359 alumni signatures. But how many alumni are there who didn’t sign it? The average American life expectancy is 77 years, and students typically graduate at age 22, so there are about 55 years worth of alumni out there. Assuming an average graduating class of 1,000 students (the number is higher now, but has grown over time), that’s 55,000

alumni of the College. This means, according to our rough figures, that about two thirds of one percent of alumni dislike Nichol enough to enter their name into an online petition.

And the supporters? The only pro-renewal petitions I’ve seen have circulated among students, of whom there are about 5,600. Each petition is inevitably signed by hundreds of students (the most recent garnered 370). The Facebook group “Renew Gene Nichol’s Presidency” contains 755 members at the College, or about 13.4 percent of the student body. The number of self-reported students who signed the petition asking Nichol’s contract to not be renewed? 42, barely enough to fill an intro to statistics class.

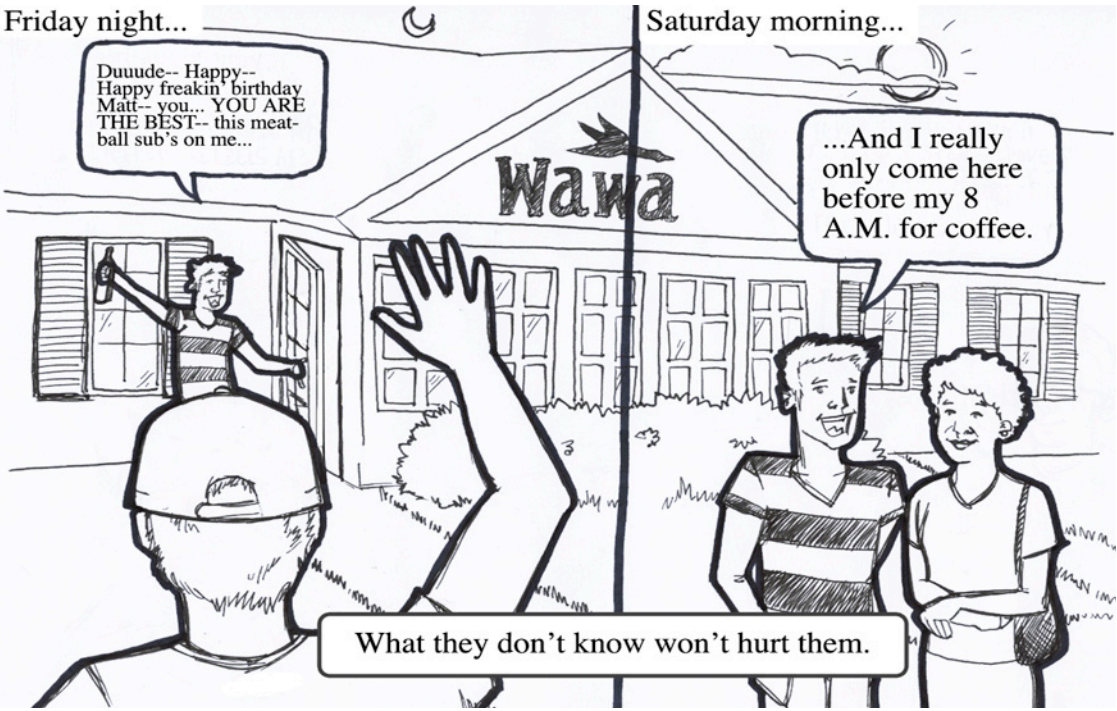
Despite being a part of such a tiny minority, the anti-Nichol militia keeps hammering away at blogs and online discussion boards. I can imagine how it must feel: the College is changing rapidly with the progress Nichol has brought it — its more diverse, more international and its physical campus is expanding into newer and more modern buildings as its reputation and prestige expand across the world. It is no longer the WASPy, preppy, regional university it used to be. The College is evolving, and that means that the school some alumni may

So what’s all the fighting about? Despite the ear-shattering pitch of Nichol’s detractors, there are few of them out there.

remember from decades past is disappearing. That change, of course, is what this is really all about. Long after most of the people upset by the Wren cross episode accepted the religion committee’s compromise and went home, this handful of alumni is still angry, and they want Nichol to be punished. Nichol’s accomplishments — diversity, financial holdings and leading the College towards a more global, prestigious identity — are secondary to the desire for Nichol’s punishment. The detractors are, in fact, quite ready to sacrifice all of these things so that their anger may be appeased.

Are these really people whose voices should influence College policy? Are these voices rational? Do they have the interests of the College in mind? Or are they a fringe, a desperate, angry fringe who should have their fair say but never be allowed to slow the progress and growth that Nichol has brought our university? Powell’s e-mail indicated that the BOV is hearing all opinions with regards to Nichol’s contract. This is good; all voices must be given fair say. But if the BOV truly has the interests of the College at heart, as I believe they do, then only the voices of the rational may prevail.

Max Fisher is a senior at the College.



By VICKY CHAO, FLAT HAT CARTOONIST

Facebook data undependable

Joanna Sandager

FLAT HAT STAFF COLUMNIST



The benefits of Facebook are undeniable. It is a great way to stay in touch with friends and family back home or stalk a cute classmate. It provides hours of procrastination and fun activities to keep you occupied during class, such as poking, groups for Chuck Norris, picture tagging and Pirates vs. Ninjas wars. Depending on what you are looking for, Facebook can help you find someone down for random play and can even be a source for biased and undependable statistical data.

According to a recent collection of data from The Flat Hat, Facebook shows that among the undergraduates at the College who list a political stance, liberals outnumber conservatives more than 2.8 to 1. The classes of 2008 and 2009 are believed to be moving sharply left after the ratio of 2.5 liberals to every conservative rose to approximately 2.8 to 1. However, to suggest that the College has a liberalizing effect on its students based on data retrieved from Facebook is ludicrous. While this data may seem objective and accurate, it is far from reliable.

Facebook data is usually collected within the first 10 minutes of creating a Facebook account. At this point a new member is probably more concerned about what his or her profile picture should be than with how he or she is politically portrayed. The information posted is typically done in haste so the user can post his or her almighty Facebook profile as soon as possible.

Even those who stop to think about who they are ideologically are faced with a slew of choices, which may confuse any non-government major. The words libertarian, apathetic, moderate, liberal

and conservative could be confusing to a 17-year-old who only took a semester of government in high school. Choices here cannot be considered accurate because typical students are not trained to think in those terms. Most of us are raised Democrat, Republican or independent. The terms conservative and liberal are “blanket” terms — they include too many ideologies. Each choice for political views would have to be rigidly defined for students’ responses to be considered accurate.

Despite the vague, blanketing nature of Facebook, political data is undependable because students may be unwilling to disclose their political beliefs. Profiles are visible to all of their friends and members within their network. It is not uncommon for people to change their views based on their audience. Is that not the reason secret ballots are used?

To me, politics has always been regarded as a topic not to be discussed at the dinner table, espe-

To suggest that the College has a liberalizing effect on its students based on data retrieved from Facebook is ludicrous.

cially around friends one wishes to keep. A social network where billions of users can access someone’s political views isn’t any different.

Whether or not the College has a liberalizing effect on its students is an issue that cannot be determined by data retrieved from Facebook. Facebook was not created for political exchange, but social networking; this makes political information present on student profiles inconsequential. A social network whose members are 10 times more likely to obsess over their relationship status than their political status is hardly a reliable source.

Joanna Sandager is a freshman at the College.

Rather be safe than sorry

Jessica Gallinaro

FLAT HAT STAFF COLUMNIST



I, like every student at the College, took an honor pledge during orientation. In this pledge, we all promised to uphold the Honor Code. We also promised to behave in a manner that would reflect the upstanding reputation of the College.

With this in mind, it makes any news of robberies and safety violations more horrifying and out of the ordinary than at other universities. We are all spoiled by the environment around us. We leave our backpacks and laptops unattended at Swem. We have our cell phones and room keys save tables at the Caf while we stand in line for our food. It seems all very quaint and similar to “Pleasantville.”

The recent reports of unsecured dorms on campus are especially alarming, as described in the Sept. 18 issue of The Flat Hat. The dorms in question are primarily freshman halls, including Barrett Hall, Taliaferro Hall, Dupont Hall and Yates Hall. As a resident of Barrett, these findings hit me a little closer to home. The fact that certain doors don’t close all the way or can be opened without the use of swiping an ID card and that certain windows can be opened easily by anyone outside is disconcerting. After all, dorms serve as homes for students throughout most of the school year. Security problems like these can cause some, including myself, to feel as though their homes are not a safe place to live.

After reading through the Campus Police Beat, though, it appears that most robberies tend to take place outside dorms. It seems, for instance, that more bikes are reported stolen off racks rather than jewelry from dorm rooms. Similarly, rocking

chairs are stolen right off the Barrett porch, while the television in the Barrett parlor remains in its place. Beyond propped open doors and vulnerable windows, we should be more cautious of things that go beyond the walls of our dorms and other campus buildings.

Students at the College are not stupid. We know that we shouldn’t leave things lying around campus, Colonial Williamsburg or wherever we happen to go. But perhaps we (and, in particular, those living in the dorms reported as unsecured) should be more alert and exercise more caution. Even simple things, such as making sure your bedroom door is locked when you leave or not letting someone you have never seen before into your dorm, make a difference. The last thing Residence Life needs is to be accosted by a mul-

Beyond propped open doors and vulnerable windows, we should be more cautious of things that go beyond the walls of our dorms.

titude of students complaining about thefts from their room or, even worse, that they themselves have been injured by an intruder.

There is not, and never will be, a completely perfect community in which crime does not exist. We all know this. But in the hustle and bustle of midterm exams, it’s easier to believe that the College and Williamsburg in general come close to that ideal. Looking down Duke of Gloucester Street, you would never think that anything horrible could ever happen here. And, for the most part, you would be right. But remember that taking an extra precaution every now and then never hurts anyone. If anything, it can make things better.

Jessica Gallinaro is a freshman at the College.

VARIETY

Popular class speeds reading comprehension

By **CLAIRE ELLERY**
The Flat Hat

As you read this you are wasting time. Unless of course, you’ve taken junior Daniel Byler’s speed reading course. Students from his last class averaged a 415 percent increase in their reading rate.

The class started last semester when Byler decided to offer fellow students the chance to learn this skill. “I really love speed reading and I’m passionate about efficiency,” he said. “It really frustrates me it’s not part of the core curriculum.”

Students use Peter Kump’s revised “Breakthrough Rapid Reading” to train their eyes and

learn how to quickly dissect reading content. This semester’s class has 100 students — 80 more than last semester’s. Byler teaches three sections of the class every Sunday.

“Natural speed readers look at books the same way you look at pictures,” Byler said. He has the students look at their books and pick one word to stare at while seeing which other words are in their field of vision. One method of reading faster called “circling” involves reading one line normally and then reading the next three or four lines in backwards circles. Another involves covering most of the lines on the page, and moving your hand over the words in a

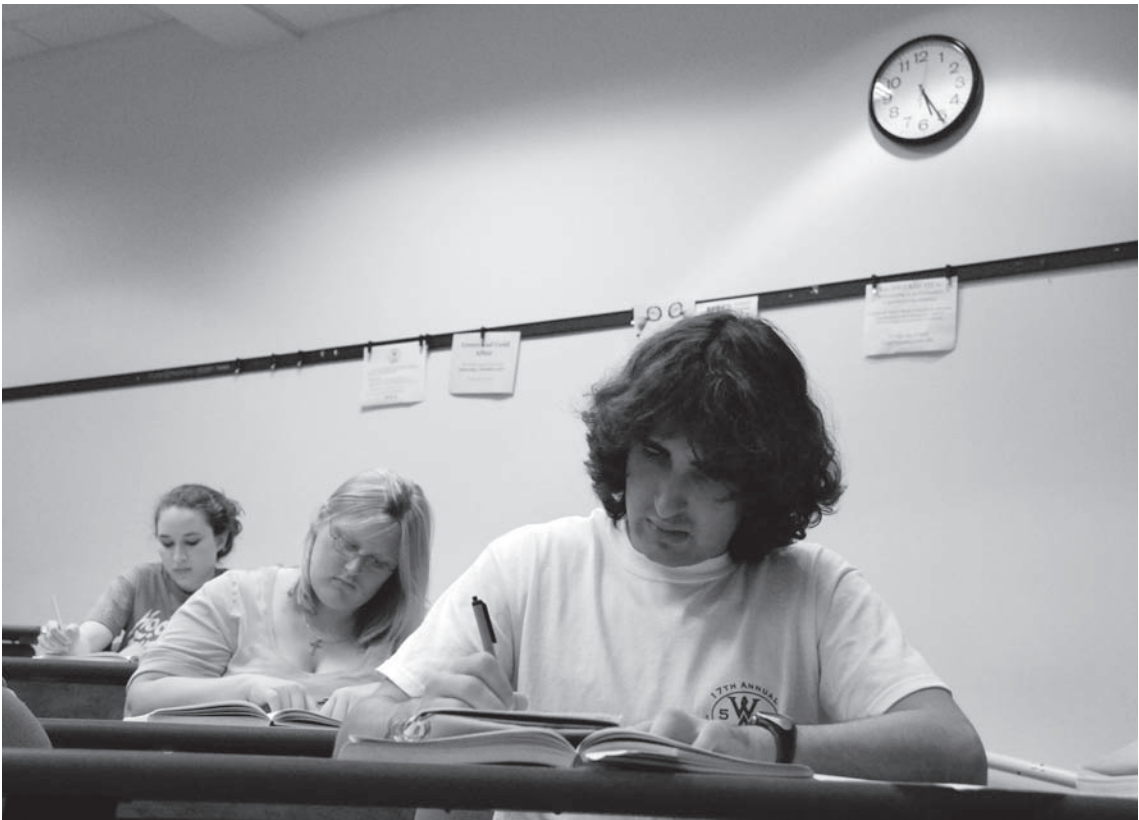
circular motion to direct our eyes across the page more precisely.

“Then aren’t you reading it out of order?” one student asked. “Yes, think of it more as an eye exercise,” Byler said.

Exercises similar to this are the basis of the students’ homework drills. The class also has four teaching assistants who help students to track their progress. “Every week we get statistics of drills from students and enter their results into a spreadsheet,” TA Kelsey Mihaloeuw said. “From there we come up with graphs that show improvement. Then, we send a personalized e-mail to everyone.” All the TAs completed the course last semester and hold office hours during which students can ask questions.

Thaddee Valdelievie ’08 saw a flyer for the class and signed up. “I’ve tried teaching myself before, but it helps to have a class,” she said. Valdelievie is already reading twice as fast, though he is still unsure of his comprehension.

Another student, sophomore Amelia Becker, is reading a third faster than before. “At first I didn’t feel I was making any progress, but with this week’s drills I’ve started reading faster with good comprehension,” she said. “I’ve definitely started using the techniques in my classes.” Though the class has homework every week, Becker says it’s



MEGAN DOYLE — THE FLAT HAT

Luke Pickett ’11 and Lissa Andreson ’10 complete excercises from their textbooks. Students from the class last semester averaged a 415 percent increase in their reading rate with comprehension.

manageable. “The drills are definitely helpful and as long as you’re committed to finding time, you can do it.”

The class has even extended to Facebook via the “Speed Reading Interest Group.” Each section of the class has its own group, and there is already a waiting list for spring semester’s class. Byler uses Facebook to send out messages to his class, calling it a “mini-Banner,” and also has a website, wmspeed.com.

“Some of you are reading fast enough now that it feels different when you read. Don’t be scared. It feels strange but it’s good — you’re reading differently,” Byler said.

The summer after his senior year of high school, Byler taught himself how to speed read. “I read five to seven times faster with really good comprehension,” he said. He then tested his skills at the College by taking a history research seminar with a hundred pages of reading every week. “I would finish the reading in one or two hours,” said Byler, who still comprehended enough to get an A in the seminar, a class that required reaction papers and class discussion. According to one of his students, Byler finished the 784-page “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” in two and a half hours.

Students seem very satisfied

with Byler’s organization of the class. Becker remarked on his efficiency, “I think he’s really organized and really on top of e-mails. He usually responds in about 20 minutes. He’s also really receptive to questions.” Valdelievie commented on Byler’s enthusiasm, “He’s got a lot of energy.”

The class has two fees: \$25 which goes to classroom use and TAs, and a \$40 commitment fee. Students get \$5 back every week they attend, and any money that is collected from missed classes goes to a literacy fund. This semester, Byler said he is leaning toward the Rita Welsh Adult Literacy Program.



MEGAN DOYLE — THE FLAT HAT

Students in Daniel Byler’s speed reading course use “Breakthrough Rapid Reading” as a textbook in the weekly class.

Choosing families, one holiday at a time

Charlotte Savino
CONFUSION CORNER COLUMNIST



I have a lot of guilty pleasures; I’ve exposed most of them in this column. One of my most favorite vices is “Engaged and Underage,” the reality show on MTV. I’d like to provide a transcript for the closing of every show.

Chick: This is my husband [insert baby-daddy’s name here]

Dude: This is my wife [insert baby-mama/soon-to-be-knocked-up girl’s name here]

Together: Some say we’re too young, but we’re our own family now.

And then everyone turns off the television and breathes a sigh of relief that they’re not part of that couple. Behold the power of schadenfreude TV.

Except that I kind of feel that I have found a second family and it makes me think I’m on my way to reality television.

No, I’m not talking about big/little sorority family stuff or that naive freshman BFF pact. I’ve come to a pivotal moment of my life in the liminal space between childhood and adulthood and between parent-guided and self-guided decisions. Decisions that may well only be the result of birth family or chosen family?

My mother is now the matriarch, a terrifying thought for her with terrifying repercussions for her children. As the youngest of three daughters and the only remaining unmarried child, I am the only one over whom my mother still has full holiday rule. I am therefore obligated to be at her beck and call for Thanksgiving, Christmas, solstices and Arbor Day.

But, like Jennifer Hudson, I’ve told her I’m not going.

That boyfriend I’m constantly writing about, well I guess he’s (among a very select few) my new family and I’m spending Thanksgiving with him this year. I already feel the seeds of guilt growing. I am abandoning my parents to celebrate a holiday with a significant other. This is Savino family blasphemy.

I thought I could blame my absence on distance. It’s an inconvenient trip to cold New York. Oh Mom, I have so much work due afterward, it would just

make more sense academically to stay in the area.

She’s quick, that Emily Savino. My parents are coming down to Washington, D.C. to stay with my sister who lives there. My excuses go out the window, and now there are reservations and hotel rooms thrown into the mix. I hold my ground.

This is the e-mail I received from my D.C. sister: “Good Luck. Mom wouldn’t let me skip a holiday until after I married Leo.”

But now, it’s confirmed. I’m off the hook. I’ve chosen my Thanksgiving family and it feels weird. It feels heavy. I’m thrilled to have all of that time with my boyfriend, but I can’t help but feel awful that I get joy out of not seeing my parents.

The thing about holidays is that they’re a lot of pressure, at least in my household. There’s the eating everything while miraculously being thin, the forced conversation that on any other day of the year would be comfortable. There’s a certain level of judgment between the sisters, what’s our ranking this year? (To which I say, for the past few years or so I’ve been a solid second place.)

Last year, I was in Rome for the fall and became really depressed and then really full and then really drunk on Thanksgiving. I missed the comfort of my mother, the gossip from my sisters, the cousins and aunts and uncles in various states of food-coma around the house. And then, suddenly, this year I’m over it.

Like everything new this year, I chalk it up to being a senior. Suddenly everything works toward or against independence. This step away from the home is just one of many that will have to happen before I create my new life. I’ve already made a firm decision not to move in with my parents (for more than six months) after graduation because I think it would stunt my emotional growth.

And as scared as I am to create an entirely independent life, it’s nice to think I could be successful. The most comforting part is knowing that I will always have a little piece of crazy to return to if I need it. Although, I’d rather not.

Charlotte Savino is a Confusion Corner columnist. She’s spending the winter solstice with Jennifer Hudson.

College Bowl: a sport we can win

By **CHARLOTTE SABALIS**
The Flat Hat

Sunday, a new sport will be coming to campus — but there are no letters or jackets associated with it, and the event will be taking place in Lodge 1, not Kaplan Arena. That’s because this sport isn’t one that you’ve heard of before: It’s the annual College Bowl.

“It’s a fun way to test your knowledge about everything from science to Britney Spears,” Patrick Ross, a graduate assistant in student activities at the University Center, said. “It’s a bonding experience for the teams and it’s generally a high-energy

situation.”

From 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., teams consisting of the brightest minds at the College will battle it out for the chance to go to the regional competition at Virginia Tech next February. If there are too many teams for one day, competition will continue Sunday Oct. 21. Whichever team wins the regional competition will advance with 14 other teams to a national tournament.

“I would recommend people participate in the College Bowl because it is a fun and entertaining event that also calls on people to use their minds,” Latasha Eley, one of Ross’s fellow graduate assistants, said. “It is

one of the few activities that colleges have to offer that brings entertainment and academics together.”

College Bowl was born in 1953 as a radio show, and remained such for four years. In 1959 it began airing as a weekly TV series, and then in 1977 it became the official intercollegiate competition that it remains today. Last year’s event at the College featured 12 teams and was considered a success by the organizers.

To find out more about the College Bowl, visit the Facebook group, “William and Mary College Bowl,” or check out the official website at collegebowl.com.

Students kick off their shoes for charity

By **ELIZABETH COLE**
The Flat Hat

Sunday, kick off your shoes to kick off a great fundraiser. Building Tomorrow is sponsoring the Grassroots Soccer Tournament, a charity event to raise awareness for HIV/AIDS prevention. Barksdale Field will accommodate the three-person co-ed barefoot teams as they lose their shoes to kick HIV/AIDS.

Building Tomorrow is a student organization at the College that promotes HIV/AIDS education and awareness in underprivileged countries. According to the Student Activities website, the organization is “a non-profit initiative aimed at giving

students the opportunity to raise funds and awareness for infrastructure projects benefiting orphans impacted by the disease.” Each year, members choose an impoverished area where outside help would be beneficial. This year, the team will work to build a school in Kampala, the capital city of Uganda.

Past Building Tomorrow endeavors range from building clinics to dispensing HIV/AIDS education to bonding with orphaned children already afflicted with the disease. Throughout the school year, Building Tomorrow will host fundraising events to raise money to purchase building supplies for the construction projects. Students who go on the trip

pay the expenses out of pocket — all fundraising directly supports the charity effort.

Ashlei Cooke ’09, the president of Building Tomorrow, noted that the Grassroots Soccer Tournament contributes not only to the HIV/AIDS awareness efforts, but also to promoting youth soccer in sub-Saharan Africa. Grassroots Soccer is a national organization with chapters at college campuses including the College, Virginia Tech and Dartmouth College. “The money we raise [helps us hold] soccer camps for young children in Africa to teach them AIDS awareness and prevention,” Cooke said.

See **GRASSROOTS** page 7

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answers at flathatnews.com

That Guy

Rob Tisdale



By SAMANTHA FIEN-HELFMAN
That Guy Columnist

Rob Tisdale is the epitome of grace and humility. Open, honest and comfortable in his own skin, he candidly shares personal experiences with me about his family, growing up, coming out of the closet and his time at the College. The depth of his conversation and feelings showcase this warmth and compassion. Rob has reaped the full benefit of his time at the College; using his four years to truly learn, develop and grow as an individual.

Where are you from?
I am from Midlothian, Virginia, just south of Richmond. I usually tell people I'm from Richmond just because no one has ever really heard of Midlothian. We didn't have big gates or anything, but I did live in one of those planned communities. There were two pools, three thousand houses and tons of people. I think half of my high school lived in the same community as me. It was how I met a lot of my friends. Hanging out with them was incredibly easy because of how close we all lived to one another.

I didn't know the Richmond area that well when I was growing up because I didn't venture much outside of the community. In fact, I didn't even visit William and Mary before applying. Since coming to the College, though, and meeting people from the area, I've gotten to explore and experience a lot more in the city.

You applied to the College without ever visiting?

[laughs] I really wanted to stay in Virginia because they have good in-state schools for my major [government], so I didn't see the point of going out of state. My parents fully endorsed the decision as well. I did not know a lot about William and Mary, but my grandfather was a '50 alumni, and he really encouraged me to look at the school. I read up about it and looked at their website, saw they had a government major program, and decided to apply. I came on Admitted Students Day, and that was the first time I had ever set foot on the campus. During our lunch break, I approached my mom and said "we need to pay the deposit now." I loved the beautiful campus, the small size and the nice people. I loved the history behind everything and was sold when I heard [former President] Timmy Sullivan speak on our tour. I owe thanks to my grandfather for encouraging me to learn and apply to this place.

After four years, do you still view the campus in that manner?

Definitely. Everyone on this campus is so kind. My friends here treat me incredibly well. Last spring, two years ago, my grandfather passed away. It was in April, and I was with four other people in the UC planning skit stuff for orientation. We were starting a dress rehearsal of the skit when my parents called. I asked if I could call back, and my dad said that I couldn't and that he was at my dorm room and needed to talk. That's when I knew something was wrong. He told me about my grandfather's passing and that we were going to cremate him and scatter the ashes along the Appalachian Trail, which is what he always wanted. I was really depressed and didn't want to talk or see anyone. One of my friends read my away message and came over. At that point, I was in my room listening to Narissa Blonde, a small-time guitarist and singer who produces very mellow and calming music that I like.

My friend came over and just sat with me for an hour or two listening to her music. He knew something was wrong but never asked what it was. He didn't have to. It is the small, yet special things like that that confirm my love for the individuals on this campus and my decision to come.



What else do you think you are going to miss about the College?

The Daily Grind. It's my favorite place on campus because it is just so nice and outdoorsy. I spend a lot of my time there; I will have worked there for two years this February. I never even drank coffee before I came here because I thought it was pretty nasty. I used to sit inside with two of my friends freshman year at those round tables until closing time. We would come for 12 to 13 hour days on Sunday, and we really learned to call that place our home. Eventually, I got a job inside which made sense given the large amount of time I was already spending there.

I usually grab breakfast from the University Center and will hang out with Scott [the owner] and his kids while I do work and study for the LSATs. I don't come as much at night because it gets really social, and I just can't work then. It's nice to walk in and see familiar faces because of how popular it is. I love that place, and it is one of the reasons I'm so upset to leave in May. You don't find many places like the Grind ... a small, individual coffee shop that retains its character. Everyone who works there or comes often knows each other so well. I am friends with Scott and his entire family. There is a sticker on the fridge that says "Daily Grind: for students, by students," and that saying couldn't be more true. You identify with the people that come to work, relax or work there. We're all just one big family.

You're taking the LSATs? Do we have a future lawyer on our hands?

I already have a set of jobs I plan on having. It's a funny story actually ... I am going to be president in the year 2036 or 2040. I picked 2036 for a while, and this past weekend I was at my grandmother's surprise party. I was talking to her friend and told her that was what I wanted to do, and she said that she "liked my optimism." I couldn't help but think "why not?" You should set your goals as high as you want, and even if you don't achieve it, you'll still get something out of it.

I didn't always want to be president though. When I was younger, I wanted to be the person at the cash register because I assumed that they got to take home all the money with them at the end of the night. I soon learned that this is not the case and moved on to other career aspirations. After college, I am planning on attending law school and then opening up my own private practice. I would like to work in some type of government law making position and could see myself serving as a judge or getting involved in politics at the state or federal level. I know it sounds ridiculous that I have all of this lined up but I've always loved law and politics.

How did you come out? What were some of the responses?

Freshman year, one of my best friends was a girl who lived right above me in Spotswood. My room was situated right next to the fire escape, and she would come down all the time to smoke out there, and I would sometimes keep her company. During one of our times sitting in the outdoor stairwell, I told her I was gay. She started laughing and would not stop. She didn't believe me for some reason and told me it was the best joke she had ever heard. I told her again the next day, and the next day, until finally she realized I wasn't kidding.

After her, I would just tell one person at a time, building courage along the way. I started going room by room telling my hallmates, and then venturing off into the neighboring hall. I would walk into the room and somehow drop into the conversation, "By the way, I'm gay." They always responded in a very nonchalant "oh okay, cool" manner. In the beginning, it was really tough. Since then, it has gotten much easier.

Gotta keep those lovin' good vibrations

Emily Powell
BEHIND CLOSED DOORS
COLUMNIST



There are a lot of important firsts in a person's life — first steps, first words and the first day of school all come to mind. But there is another pinnacle that some women have yet to experience: the first vibrator. Many women are afraid of vibrators for different reasons — some believe it will affect their sexual enjoyment by damaging their sensitivity, some have sanitation concerns and others are simply turned off by some of the colors, materials and sizes they've seen. Vibrators shouldn't be feared though, they should be celebrated. They add a whole new dimension to the bedroom, whether you are alone or with company. If you're a woman who wants to know what to look for in their first vibrator, a veteran user who wants an upgrade, or a man who is open to bringing toys into their sex lives and needs help finding the right match, look no further.

To start with the basics, there are two broad categories of vibrators: those meant for clitoral stimulation and those meant for penetration. There are also combination vibrators that are outfitted for both simultaneously. Think about your purpose in using the toy. Are you a virgin? Then it would probably be best if you stuck with a vibrator that is intended for clitoral stimulation, or a smaller-than-average penetration vibrator. Look into the range of 4 to 5 inches, and keep the diameter small. Some virgins find losing their virginity is less painful if they have gotten used to the feel of a penetration toy, but this is an individual decision. If you're an experienced user, guy or girl, who wants an upgrade, what was wrong with your last toy? Think about what could have been improved: battery life, width, texture, etc. Look online and you can see all of the features of the vibrator laid out.

You can also use the dildo to try out something new. Does your partner want you to try out anal sex



but you're a bit nervous? Lube up a dildo that is smaller than your man and have him guide it into you. That will let him show you how gentle he'll be, and you can see if the sensation is a turn on for you.

Nearly all clitoral stimulators are small enough to discreetly carry in your pants pocket, which explains the nickname "pocket rocket." If penetration is your goal the next thing to decide is size. There are a multitude of lengths and girths available in the toy market. Shop around and figure out which one is right for you. That will all come back to your experience level, and what you think would be comfortable with your body that you can handle. Look for one with a curved head because the shape of this toy makes it perfect for G-spot stimulation. Guys should look into curved head models as well, because the P-spot can be stimulated this way too.

Next, you should think about what you'd like the surface of the vibrator to feel like. There are vibrators with ridges covering them, smooth ones, realistic penetration vibrators covered with veins and clitoral finger vibrators with different stimulating attachable heads. If you are a beginner, think about how sensitive you normally are. Vibrators can be a little overwhelming while you are getting used to them, and too many nubs or bumps could lead to some after-play soreness. Stick with something friendly looking. You'll be less intimidated by a smooth, hot pink

number than one that's flesh-colored and covered in budding veins. That being said, there is such a variety out there that if you want to get an exact replica of the man of your choice (to play with while he's away or not) you can definitely find a near match.

A waterproof toy is best for most people because that guarantees privacy if it's a solo game, or slippery fun if a friend is involved. Look for Cyberskin and silicone products, because they are the most sanitary and can be cleaned with lukewarm water and mild hand soap.

Finally, it is time to think of the almighty dollar. Prices for vibrators range from as low as \$20 to over \$100. Prices can also fluctuate depending on where you buy the toy. Vibrators are usually more expensive when you buy them in a sex shop, so web purchasing can be a plus. Most toy-selling websites will list the transaction with an innocuous title on your credit card or bank statement to hide the exact item you are buying, so there's no need to explain the payment to spicygear.com.

Don't forget to purchase plenty of the right type of battery for your toy. There is nothing more depressing than buying a vibrator and having to postpone the test run because you have to track down some special battery. Stock up, but go somewhere discrete where you're just a face in the crowd.

Emily Powell is the Flat Hat sex columnist. She buys extra-long-lasting batteries.

Students kick off shoes for charity

GRASSROOTS *from page 6*

The soccer tournament features a unique element — all players will be barefoot. Co-ed teams of three will compete in an elimination-style series of games on Barksdale Field. The suggested donation per player is \$10, and the event includes food, music and a raffle for prizes. Cooke said

that the prizes will also be awarded to the winning team. Additionally she emphasized team fundraising. "We encourage fundraising, and the team that raises the most money will also win prizes," she said. Students who prefer to be spectators rather than players are also welcome to come, watch and learn more about the Building Tomorrow and Grassroots Soccer

initiatives. This Sunday's barefoot soccer tournament is the first of several events Building Tomorrow anticipates hosting on campus. Students interested in fielding a team can sign up at the University Center tables or at Barksdale the day of the event. For more information about Building Tomorrow visit www.wm.edu/so/destinationkampala.

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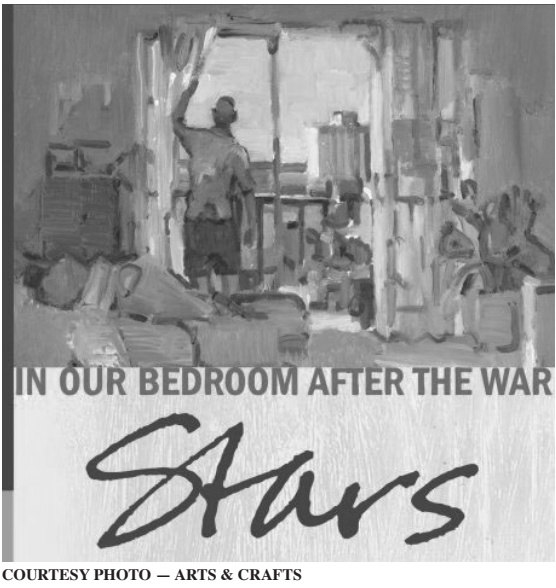
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Stars furnishes ‘Bedroom’ with simplicity

By **KASI KANGARLOO**
Flat Hat Copy Editor

The first time you listen, it may not make a bit of sense. Stars’ latest release, “In Our Bedroom After the War,” certainly doesn’t make a point of putting all its intentions right out front, yet the album’s spacious instrumentation, held together by the soft, poppy vocals of Torquil Campbell and Amy Millan, makes for a listening experience that’s ultimately very worthwhile.

The point of spacious instrumentation may seem odd in itself, as Stars’ previous releases were far more focused on the indie-pop sound that brought the band its initial fame. With albums like “Heart” and “Set Yourself on Fire,” sappy love songs were no longer a guilty pleasure. What songwriter Torquil Campbell has done with ‘In Our Bedroom,’ however, is bring the lyrical emphasis to the forefront, rendering the instrumentation a template for the album’s delicate, passionate vocals. Each track offers its own story of unrequited love and innocence lost, brought together by the thematic significance of the album’s title. The lyrics begin with Millan’s assertion, “The night starts here,” and, after telling of their adventures in the night, end with an explosive “Here it comes! Here comes the first day!”

The instrumentation, though sparse, is astral and lush, providing for an atmospheric effect that’s refined in every respect. Guitar solos don’t steal the set, but instead settle right into the blanketed texture of strings and woodwinds, as in tracks like “Life 2: Unhappy Ending,” reminding us of the textural approach of bands like Broken Social Scene and Talk Talk. “The Night Starts Here” opens up with a synthesized, orchestral landscape, underlaid by the sound of real violins and broken only by the elegant twang of an electric-acoustic guitar. There’s even room for a jazzier feel, as in the song “My Favorite Book,” where the sound of saxophones and flutes blends with the weightier tones of cellos and violins. And it certainly doesn’t stop there — the sound of mandolins, accordians, xylophones and all other sorts of brass, synthesizers and percussion make an appearance.

For all its daring change, however, it can be said that the band has lost none of its flare and drive for creating a flashy pop sound. Tracks like “Bitches in Tokyo” and “Barricade” are still shy, soft-spoken

See **STARS** page 9

Fall TV: what you’ve been missing

By **ALEX GUILLÉN**
Flat Hat Assoc. Reviews Editor

Besides all of the new shows premiering this fall, old favorites are also coming back. Some shows are young and still finding their way; others are old favorites that have to fight to stay fresh. To help you sort through the muck, here are some reviews of shows that premiered within the last few weeks.

“House”

Way back in February, I said in a column that to keep “House” interesting, the title character’s three underlings would have to go — they had no more depth and were starting to get annoying. So imagine my delight when, in the season finale, they all quit or were fired. In this season’s opener, House worked by himself to solve a case — one as full of twists and revelations as usual. The second episode, however, revealed that Cameron and Chase are still working at the hospital, the former in the emergency room and the latter on the surgery staff. Foreman has apparently moved to a New York hospital, but that’s so close to Princeton. I’m sure he’ll still find time to pop in and butt heads with House every now and then. The wide variety of secondary characters that House is considering for his new team show potential.

“Bones”

Dr. Temperance Brennan

and her team of forensic anthropologists are back in action this season with a bizarre new case. When a skull is thrown off an overpass and becomes lodged in a car windshield, “Bones” (Emily Deschanel) and FBI Special Agent Seeley Booth (David Boreanaz) uncover a possible ring of cannibalism and occult activities in the vault of an abandoned bank. Although one evil-doer is arrested, he is later found stabbed to death in prison — clearly setting up a plot arch for this season. The character development also provides a nice sidetrack from all of the action, setting “Bones” apart from other crime dramas. Zach has returned from Iraq, and Hodgins and Angela have hired a private detective to track down a stranger Angela met while drunk in Fiji so that they can tie the knot. Deschanel and Boreanaz have great chemistry, and Tamara Taylor really adds to the remarkable cast as Dr. Camille Saroyan.

“Numb3rs”

This show makes you feel smart. Violent crimes are constantly solved by employing complicated mathematical formulas dumbed down for those of us who avoid Jones Hall like the plague. While many other crime dramas tend to lack character development, this show has too much. I find myself wanting to slap some of the characters and tell them to get back on the case, dammit. Unfortunately, the writers don’t

seem to realize that they’ve lost sight of the formula. The first episode of this season explored the treachery of one team member. No one on the team could really believe that he had betrayed America to the Chinese, and, to prove it, they spent most of the hour wandering around saying just that. Hopefully “Numb3rs” turns back to its namesake soon.

“The Office”

I, like every other Jim/Pam shipper, spent most of this episode rolling around, hugging myself and feeling a deep-down tingly sensation. Why? Because it finally happened. Jim and Pam are finally together. The season opener saw Michael hit Meredith with his car in the parking lot. At the hospital, doctors discover she had contracted rabies when Dwight trapped a bat against her head last season. To repent, Michael organizes a 5K fun run for rabies — a disease that kills only a handful of people each year. Few take it seriously: Jim and Pam stop at a yard sale, while Stanley, Creed and Oscar take a cab to a bar instead. The episode featured other classic Michaelisms, such as “I hate hospitals; in my mind, they are associated with sickness.” Oh, and for you ladies, Jim finally went shirtless.

“Stargate: Atlantis”

I’m starting to wonder if this series can go wrong. Sure,

See **TV** page 9



COURTESY PHOTO — FOX
Everybody lies, but especially this guy: “House” airs Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on Fox.



COURTESY PHOTO — CBS
Numbers, numbers everywhere: “Numb3rs” airs Fridays at 10 p.m. on CBS.



COURTESY PHOTO — NBC
Jim and Pam, together at last: “The Office” airs Thursdays at 9 p.m. on NBC.

‘Feast of Love’ proves less than kosher

By **CAITLIN CLEMENTS**
The Flat Hat

“Feast of Love” is a film that should have a lot going for it. Helmed by a well-respected director (Robert Benton, “Kramer vs. Kramer”), it is based on acclaimed novel of the same title and boasts a cast who have, collectively, dozens of Oscar nominations under their belts. All of this said, why did I leave the theater feeling altogether unsatisfied?

The initial problem is that I went in expecting to see an entirely different film. Somewhere in Hollywood there is a crafty trailer editor who managed to sell this melodramatic downer as a cultured romantic comedy along the lines of 2003’s much-lauded “Love Actually.” After seeing it, I can’t help but wonder if we Americans hadn’t better leave the high-brow rom-coms to the Brits.

The film stars Greg Kinnear (“Little Miss Sunshine”) as Bradley Thomas, an affable coffee shop owner who

is unlucky in love. Very unlucky. In the course of the film he endures two failed marriages. He loses his first wife Kathryn, (Selma Blair, “Hellboy”), to a sexy, assertive lesbian (Stana Katic, “Heroes”) whom she meets while playing softball. Wife number two is Diana, a chilly, blonde real-estate agent played by Radha Mitchell (“Finding Neverland”) who quickly leaves Bradley for married-man David (Billy Burke, “Fracture”) with whom she has been having an affair for years.

Spoiler-phobes fear not. These are all details that are readily available in the trailer. As it turns out, this prior knowledge really hindered me as a viewer. Seeing the film is akin to watching “Titanic” — you know things can’t end well. Thanks to dramatic irony, viewers already know that Bradley’s first two relationships will fail, so why bother investing emotion in how they play out?

Bradley’s source of sanity amid all this heartbreak is a wizened, semi-

retired philosophy professor named Harry Stevenson (Morgan Freeman, “Million Dollar Baby”), who frequents the coffee shop. Harry witnesses all the follies of young love within the shop, and then goes home each night to recount what he has observed to his faithful wife Esther (Jane Alexander, “The Ring”). In this sense he becomes a narrator of sorts — familiar territory for Freeman.

Harry also becomes directly involved in the lives of Oscar (Toby Hemingway, “The Covenant”) and Chloe (Alexa Davalos, “The Chronicles of Riddick”), a couple of Bradley’s employees who experience a classic love-at-first-sight moment early on, and then only have puppy dog eyes for each other the rest of the film.

At this point, the stage is set and the lovers are free to do their thing for another hour or so. Did I mention there’s nudity, and lots of it? Pretty much anyone under 60 winds up with their clothes off.

The film constantly tries to remind

its viewers how sophisticated it is. It seems we’re supposed to believe that any story immediately becomes more classy when set within the walls of a coffee shop — hey, it worked for “Friends,” right?

“Feast of Love” also goes to great lengths to emphasize that it is not your average fluffy date movie. It’s going to throw in any social difficulty that could possibly render budding relationships more excruciating, and we as viewers are supposed to grin and bear it: drug addiction and abusive parents, for example. Sometimes a film might throw one or two of these hot topics in to mix things up a bit, but “Feast of Love” tackles them all. Rather than creating an aura of relevance and reality around the film, the end result is a cast of characters who seem less like people and more like empty shells created solely to act as embodiments of different sources of social commentary.

See **‘FEAST’** page 9

Aging Roth publishes new novel, ‘Exit Ghost’

By **MICHAEL COHEN**
The Flat Hat

Enter Philip Roth. The year is 1959 and the young American writer has just published his debut novel, “Goodbye Columbus,” igniting one of the most fruitful, forceful and wild careers in American letters. With the publication of “Exit Ghost” nearly 50 years later, Roth is still at it, but this most recent book reveals his age on many levels.

The title is a reference to his earlier work, “The Ghost Writer,” which introduced Nathan Zuckerman, Roth’s literary alter-ego and narrator for many of his subsequent books. Zuckerman, 71 years old in “Exit Ghost,” decides to leave his isolated, austere life in the Berkshires for a trip to New York City on the eve of the ‘04 election.

The novel, with its haphazard plot and uncharacteristically lean prose, is not so much about the encounters Zuckerman has in New York as it is about his old age — the “organic rebellion staged by the body against the elderly,” Zuckerman tries, in vain, to counter this through his visit to the city. But as Roth would have it, Zuckerman finds salvation hard to come by, and

that any respite from the horrors of old age and death are, at best, imagined.

“Exit Ghost” most closely resembles Roth’s preceding novel, “Everyman,” in its brevity and its focus on senescence and mortality, but the similarities go only so far. Where “Everyman” was tightly organized, “Exit Ghost” feels messy and digressive, which softens its impact. Even the quality of the prose — something Roth has a natural handle on — felt sub-par in the first half of the novel.

Most interesting is the tension Zuckerman feels between a desire to passionately involve himself in all corners of life and a counter-urge to disengage and become a mere observer. It’s a tension that he never quite resolves; he’s lonesome in his cabin in the Berkshires, and his supposedly invigorating trip to the city leaves him feeling out of touch and ancient.

While this is not one of Roth’s greater novels, it does have its redeeming qualities. Roth conveys a sense, at times rather powerfully, of the damage old age can wreak. Incontinence, impotence and a deteriorating memory are Zuckerman’s biggest ailments, and his humiliation is passionately evoked.



COURTESY PHOTO — HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

The prose feels smoother in the second half of the novel. In keeping with the other Zuckerman books, it blurs the line between life and fiction, and it also answers some questions left unresolved in earlier books.

The most striking aspect of “Exit Ghost” is its tone: tired, resigned, even grouchy at times. In this sense it reads like an old man. The symmetry between narrator and writing is unfortunate, however, because the Zuckerman of previous novels had a life-force and effusiveness about him that has almost disappeared in this novel. Zuckerman’s old age has sapped away his vitality and Roth’s old age has sapped away the vitality of his prose.

Long-awaited ‘Halo 3’ lives up to immense hype

By **MATTHEW FALWELL**
The Flat Hat

The “Halo” trilogy reaches its conclusion, guns blazing, with “Halo 3,” shattering release day records with its unprecedented \$170 million opening. Take my word for it: it will be the standard by which all other games will be compared to for years to come. It offers an engaging action-packed storyline as well as the best multiplayer experience you’ll enjoy for years, guaranteed to occupy hours of time for you and up to fifteen of your friends (a.k.a. moving targets). Every game in this series has been a genre-defining title, and “Halo 3” is the best yet.

Though it shares similarities with its predecessors, “Halo 3” offers anything but more of the same. The final chapter in Master Chief’s saga comes packed with more bells and whistles than this year’s Porsche. Landmines, portable force fields and Man-Cannons (gravity defying lifts that launch you far down the field) are just a few of the new toys to help you slaughter and frustrate your friends all night long.

The game’s greatest flaw, which speaks volumes, is the slow pacing of its brief storyline. After an hour of unnecessary foreplay, the game finds its rhythm,

which only intensifies until the climax. Unfortunately the game is a short one: you’ll probably be finished after only eight hours, though there are four difficulty levels for you to play through.

As you’d expect, the plot follows directly from the previous installments. Returning fans will be at home in the space opera, but new players will be confused, the game gives little explanation for the apocalyptic events that unfold in the war between humanity and the Covenant, the alien invaders seeking to wipe us from the galaxy. Gamers seeking a stand-alone narrative should think twice before their purchase.

But of course “Halo 3” is a multi-player game at heart. The multi-player combat rubs elbows with perfection, offering a vast and balanced selection of weapons that all have their uses, unlike most shooters. Even the weapons you enter the game with are versatile, preventing one player from taking control of the match. Additionally, minor control changes make playing the game more intuitive than ever: the ability to reload each gun separately with the controller’s shoulder buttons is a welcome and much needed change. Graphically, the game is

See **‘HALO’** page 9

Coming Attractions

— compiled by
Alex Guillén



Beirut – “The Flying Club Cup” (4AD)
Beirut’s sophomore album was inspired by a photograph of an old-time Parisian hot air balloon festival, according to lead singer Zach Condon. Although the tracks stick to Beirut’s recognizable style, most have a denser feel. The album’s range of musical instruments includes glockenspiels and euphoniums. **Oct. 9**



LeAnn Rimes – “Family” (Curb Records)
Country music singer LeAnnRimes’ twelfthstudio album, “Family,” features a more mature look at life and family thanks to her recent marriage to backup dancer Dean Sheremet. Her talent, though, hasn’t changed a bit — on “One Day Too Long,” her impressive voice is used in a more bluesy style — and it’s great. **Oct. 9**



Alter Bridge – “Blackbird” (Universal Republic Records)
Alt-metal band Alter Bridge’s second album, “Blackbird,” builds on the group’s impressive debut three years ago. Lead singer Myles Kennedy’s form is outstanding, and guitarist Mark Trimonti’s ability has improved from his already considerable skill. The band seems to have finally come into its own. **Oct. 9**



“The Darjeeling Limited” (Fox Searchlight Pictures)
Director Wes Anderson’s latest film, “The Darjeeling Limited,” follows three brothers reconnecting on a pan-India train trip after the death of their father. Excellent writing and acting, as well as remarkable attention to detail and a healthy dose of lopsided comedy, mark this film. **Oct. 5**



“I Am America (And So Can You!)”
by Stephen Colbert (Grand Central Publishing)
“I Am America (And So Can You!),” the book by “Colbert Report” host Stephen Colbert, is filled with parodies of Bill O’Reilly’s works, including lists of things that turn you gay and the treachery of the sea. **Oct. 9**

HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP

I’m not that innocent
As if losing custody of her little darlings wasn’t hard enough, Britney Spears may have a new sex tape. After a night of drunkenly flashing her panty-free ladybits around a bar, the leading lady accompanied a new friend to his cabana. Without her knowledge, he set up a camera and recorded their rendezvous. He’s unsure of whether to release the tape — Brit didn’t inspire him much, and he’s a little embarrassed about his potential.



On a boat?
Baywatch babe Pamela Anderson is making another home improvement. The oft-married stripperella has applied for a marriage license with Rick Solomon. Solomon, whose only noteworthy accomplishment is costarring in “A Night in Paris,” has also been married twice before. The couple insists they are not engaged — just prepared. Wonder how long it will be before these naked souls launch their own sex tape.



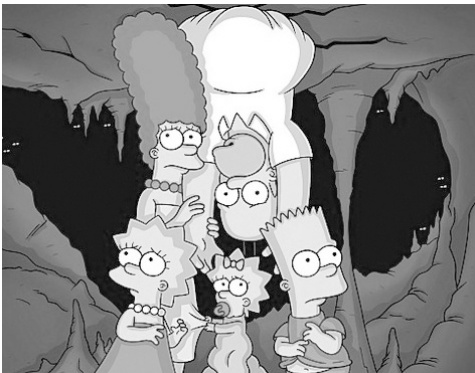
Isaac Hanson hospitalized
The oldest Hanson brother, Isaac Hanson, was admitted to a hospital this week, complaining of chest and shoulder pain. The 27-year-old was diagnosed with a pulmonary embolism — a blood clot that broke free from an extremity and traveled to his lungs. Doctors report he is in stable condition. The incident happened after one of Isaac’s performances on the tour for the group’s latest album, “The Walk.”



Two of a kind
Not one to miss out on a New York minute, pint sized bag lady Mary-Kate Olsen sticks to her hometown lifestyle even when abroad. Her passport to Paris apparently doesn’t extend as far as the cafes — the boho-chic billionaire was spotted flitting through the city of love accompanied by her trusty Starbucks venti latte. In related news, M-K is seven Venti lattes tall.
— compiled by Alice Hahn and Alex Guillén



COURTESY PHOTO — FOX
The evil monkey is coming: “Family Guy” airs Sundays at 9 p.m. on Fox.



COURTESY PHOTO — FOX
D’oh: “The Simpsons” airs Sundays at 8 p.m. on Fox.



COURTESY PHOTO — FOX
Put us back in the goo: “American Dad” airs Sundays at 9:30 p.m. on Fox.

TV premiers: get ready for fall

TV from page 8

“Stargate: Atlantis” has had problems in the past (cough, Aiden Ford, cough), but it always triumphs over the roadblocks. Now more than ever, ‘Atlantis’ is important because its sister show, “Stargate: SG-1,” has ended after a beautiful 10-year run. The cliffhanger ending of last season left the city stranded in space with a waning battery and Dr. Stephanie Weir (Tori Higginson) critically injured. The team clobbers those problems and several others that keep popping up like it’s a game of Whack-a-Mole. Happily, several minor characters receive more development in this episode. David Nykl shines as Dr. Radek Zelenka, and Jewel Staite, (“Firefly”) makes a happy return to sci-fi as the reluctant Acting Chief Medical Officer. Another happy surprise: ‘SG-1’ may be over, but Amanda Tapping isn’t done yet; her character, Sam Carter, is moving to the Pegasus Galaxy to take command of the Atlantis expedition. This season promises to continue with gripping episodes.

“Family Guy”
The hour-long season premiere of “Family Guy” had the characters re-enact “Star Wars,” and contained both wonderful gems of comedy and terrible time-killers that should have been cut. The scene where Peter tells his family to

“act cool” as they all sneak out of the Millennium Falcon to the tune of Cab Calloway’s “Minnie the Moocher”: hilarious. The minute-long sidetrack where Peter steals a discarded couch: boring. The variety of cultural references fell sadly short of what they could have been, although what references they did make were excellent. The episode included parodies of commercials for Grey Poupon, the movie “Airplane!,” the fourth “Dr. Who” series and the band Earth, Wind and Fire. While the episode could have done more with the idea, and there were clearly some points where the writers stretched to fill time, the premiere was still a great parody of a classic American film.

“The Simpsons”
This summer’s “Simpsons Movie” proved that the writing could go beyond the stale remnants that have plagued the last few seasons. Sadly, the premiere of season 19 returned to a level of quality of which Krusty himself would approve. Homer saves Mr. Burns from drowning in a fountain, and, as a reward, the rich Scrooge flies with Homer to Chicago in a private jet. Although Homer greatly enjoys the ride, soon afterward he becomes depressed with his lackluster life. To cheer him up, Marge hires a life coach, Colby, voiced by Stephen Colbert. Although the part took advantage

of Colbert’s dry arrogance, it turned out to be disappointingly unamusing. One notable and happy difference: Homer actually behaved normally in this episode. He had real feelings and attainable desires — something of a sharp contrast from his usual peculiar self. Hopefully, the writers will capitalize on the success of the movie and up the ante. Until that time, I’ll continue to watch “The Simpsons” dutifully.

“American Dad”
This series started off slow, unable to compete with its immensely popular sister animation sitcoms. However, during the second season it picked up considerably, finally coming into its own in the episode “Black Mystery Month.” The third season has begun well: In the season premiere, the family takes a vacation, but as they eventually discover, all of their vacations have been fake. In reality, Stan has placed them all in vats of goo that simulate a fun vacation while he watches football upstairs (“The Matrix” anyone?). After a hilarious series of pseudo-vacations, they go on a real one, only to discover that fake vacations are better and a lot more fun. Numerous cultural references pop up in the story, including the short story “The Most Dangerous Game” and Shakespeare’s “The Tempest,” giving the series a more familiar feel.

Stars improve on ‘Bedroom’

STARS from page 8

love songs, as Campbell intones, “How could anyone not love the terrible things you do?” The song “Genova Heights” echoes similar sentiments, with vocals reminiscent of that strained, Bee Gees-disco cry.

Though the band pushes the limits of its indie-pop groundings, Stars has ultimately created an album that works not only to defy such standards, but to bring the spirit of the genre to a whole new level. The lyrical intensity creates a poetic landscape that comes closer to the dramatic power of opera, and not surprisingly so, as Campbell has cited musical influences as disparate as French romantic composer Hector Berlioz and hip-hop group Outkast. Nowhere is this more evident than in the closing and title-track, where Campbell’s final cry — “After the war!” — leads the way for a massive crescendo in the orchestra, closing the album at the height of its emotional intensity. One must wonder whether Campbell’s stage acting career was as influential on the band’s sound as his taste in music, for the wail of electric guitars coupled with the orchestral blast of gives the impression that the band is being ushered offstage with a final flourish.

The idea of the dramatic stage is prevalent throughout the album, especially in Campbell’s storytelling power — a talent left almost entirely untapped before this release. Songs like “Take Me to the Riot” and “Personal” tell tales of glorious nightlife depravity and an unrequited, terrified love, respectively. During “Life 2: Unhappy Ending,” the title being an obvious reference to a movie take — he ruminates over the idea of life as a film, depicting scenes in script fashion as Millan intones, “Here is the part where you save me / Here is the scene where you save the day / Why can’t the ending be happy? / Why must it always resolve this way?”

Yet for all its subtle complexity, the beauty of this album lies in its simplicity — in the ease of its lyricism and melodic power. Seeing as how this is only the third full-length release from Stars, we can only hope that there’s plenty more to come, and plenty of new ground still to tread.

★★★★☆

Kinnear can’t save ‘Feast’

‘FEAST’ from page 8

At one point in the film, Harry recounts a brief history of how the Greek gods created love out of boredom and then were forced to create laughter “so they could stand it.” It is a shame that the filmmakers did not keep the value of a little comic relief in mind as they crafted their tale. A little levity is never a bad thing, and could have worked wonders on this film.

Midway through the film, Bradley declares that he is merely serving as a “transition” for women on their way to something better. The same could be said of the film itself. It serves as tolerable fare for moviegoers awaiting the Oscar-bait that is soon to come as the holidays draw nearer. Audiences expected a delectable treat and wound up with a bit of a dud. Luckily a true holiday “feast” of award contenders is on its way, and “Feast of Love” can remain the forgettable appetizer that served to merely tide us over as we wait.

★★☆☆☆

‘Halo 3’ lives up to the series’ high expectations

‘HALO’ from page 8

gorgeous and at times cinematic and breathtaking.

New features like the in-game theater change the way you play, allowing you to save videos of matches viewable from any perspective. Long gone are the days of tall tales: when you kill someone 50 yards away with a perfect grenade toss, you have the indisputable proof at your fingertips. You can save the footage on your Xbox and rub it in your friends’ faces by e-mailing them each a copy. Take my word for it, nothing compares to blowing your friend out of the sky with a rocket launcher and then forcing him to watch his death ad nauseum from every possible angle.

Another innovation sure to garner praise is “The Forge”, a sophisticated map editor that allows you to tinker with all aspects of the game’s multi-player playgrounds in obsessive detail while still retaining the simple controls that trademark the “Halo” series. The amount of customization available to the player is staggering, with downloadable content coming eventually to increase the game’s time in the spotlight. One creative variant, appropriately named “Infection,” mimics classic zombie flicks by allowing a rogue player

with superhuman powers hunt the others down. The catch is that with each kill, the fallen join the rogue’s undead ranks, eventually forming a zombie posse that scours the map in search of surviving humans. Other more traditional game types are built in, and using the vast array of options at the player’s disposal, many more are sure to be created by the massive online community. This community sports over 50,000 active players at any given time and had

over a million the night of its release. Thankfully, Bungie Studios, the company responsible for the “Halo” phenomenon, has made it possible to share not just videos, but also game types, screenshots and custom maps with friends via the Internet. Logging in to the company’s website on your computer allows you to review and download your screenshots and peruse records of your online exploits in shocking detail.

“Halo 3” is a game that both casual

and hardcore players can enjoy; while easy to learn, it is difficult to master. If you own an Xbox 360, this game needs to be in your library. If you’re a gamer and you don’t have an Xbox, you need to make friends with someone who does. Just be warned: if “Halo 3” is anything like its prequels, it may find permanent residence in your Xbox console. After a few rounds of “Halo” with your friends, other games just aren’t as fun.

★★★★★



COURTESY PHOTO — BUNGIE STUDIOS

“Halo 3,” the latest release in the ‘Halo’ video game series, supports up to 16 players in its amazing multi-player mode.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

NCAA REPORT

College well above national average in graduation rate

The NCAA released their Graduation Success Rate report Wednesday, and the College performed well above the national average. The report, covering graduation rates from 1997 to 2000, showed that the Tribe was at or above the national average in every sport. The men's teams in gymnastics, soccer, swimming and tennis all boasted 100 percent graduation rates. The women's teams in basketball, cross country/track, golf, gymnastics, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, tennis and volleyball all had 100 percent graduation rates as well. The sport with the lowest graduation rate was field hockey, with an 80 percent rate.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Moulton-Levy and Zoricic advance; Acharya loses

Senior Megan Moulton-Levy and junior Katarina Zoricic made quick work of their first round foe at the All-American Championships, defeating the University of Kansas 8-3. The top seeded Moulton-Levy and Zoricic will battle Louisiana State University in the quarterfinals Friday. Sophomore Ragini Acharya fell in singles to fourth-ranked Suzi Barbos of the University of California — Berkeley 6-4, 6-3.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Zimmeck named to Top Drawer team of the week

Junior forward Claire Zimmeck, just one day after being named the CAA player of the week, has been named to the *Top Drawer Soccer* team of the week. Zimmeck earned the honors for her performances this weekend against CAA opponents Drexel University and University of Delaware. Zimmeck recorded a goal in both contests. She is currently tied for first in the CAA in goals scored.

— NCAA report and women's soccer by Jeff Dooley. Women's tennis by Miles Hilder.

SCHEDULE

Fri., Oct. 5

MEN'S TENNIS

All-American Tournament — Tulsa, Okla.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Riviera/ITA All-American Championship — Pacific Palisades, Calif.

Wildcat Invitational — Evanston, Ill.

VOLLEYBALL

@ Towson — 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

@ Hofstra — 7 p.m.

FIELD HOCKEY

vs. DREXEL — 7 p.m.

MEN'S SOCCER

vs. HOFSTRA — 7 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 6

MEN'S TENNIS

All-American Tournament — Tulsa, Okla.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Riviera/ITA All-American Championship — Pacific Palisades, Calif.

Wildcat Invitational — Evanston, Ill.

FOOTBALL

@ Villanova — 6 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

@ Delaware — 7 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 7

MEN'S TENNIS

All-American Tournament — Tulsa, Okla.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Riviera/ITA All-American Championship — Pacific Palisades, Calif.

Wildcat Invitational — Evanston, Ill.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

@ Northeastern — 1 p.m.

FIELD HOCKEY

vs. HOFSTRA — 1 p.m.

MEN'S SOCCER

vs. NORTHEASTERN — 1 p.m.

FOOTBALL PREVIEW: VILLANOVA

Tribe ready to tame the 'Cats
College goes up against evenly matched CAA opponent Villanova

By JEFF DOOLEY

Flat Hat Sports Editor

At 6'4" and 271 lbs., Sean Lissemore hardly looks like someone who is used to getting picked on. So it should come as no surprise that the sophomore defensive tackle says that he and the rest of the Tribe's rush defense, ranked last in the conference, are going to do whatever they can to avoid being bullied by their opponents' rushing attacks.

"We have to watch out for the run, because the run has been a point of emphasis for other teams to kind of pick on us," Lissemore said.

Lissemore and the Tribe defense will have the opportunity to right the ship this weekend as they travel north to take on the Villanova University Wildcats Saturday night in what looks to be a very close matchup.

Both teams enter the game with identical 3-2 overall and 1-1 CAA records. In the debut release of the Gridiron Power Index (GPI), a ranking system of the FCS compiled by CollegeSportingNews.com, the Wildcats grabbed the 20th spot while the Tribe were just one back at no. 21.

In addition to stopping the run, the Tribe defense will have to pay close attention to Villanova's sophomore quarterback Antwon Young, an athletic signal-caller who poses a threat both through the air and on the ground. He currently ranks 6th in the CAA in both total offense and passing yards per game. He has thrown for 10 touchdowns so far this season and rushed for another.

"I think the biggest thing is getting some kind of pressure on him," Head Coach Jimmye Laycock said of defending Young. "Whether it's out of the four-man line or if it's five or if it's six, we've got to bring pressure."

Lissemore agreed with his coach's assessment.

"Most importantly, [we have to] contain him," Lissemore said. "An athletic quarterback like that, you have to worry about him in the open field making a play out of something you should have taken care of."

Initially the Wildcats do not look like much of a threat to run the ball (their leading rusher, senior Matt Dicken, is only averaging 57 yards per game on the ground), but it is important to note that the Towson rushing offense, last in

the CAA at 87 yards per game, exploited the Tribe rush defense for 214 yards last Saturday.

"We didn't do as well against the running game last week as we really needed to," Laycock said. "We need to improve ourselves a little bit there."

On the other side of the ball, the Tribe offense is coming off a game in which it only compiled 284 total yards, but was able to come up with enough big plays to secure the win.

The rushing offense had some trouble against Towson (only 108 yards, 42 of them by Phillips), partially due to the ineffectiveness of starting running back Courtland Marriner (20 yards on 11 carries), a redshirt freshman. Marriner is still recovering from a hand injury that kept him out of two games this season, and, according to Laycock, is still adjusting to having his thumb taped down during games. If he continues to take time adjusting, senior Tony Viola and redshirt freshman Thomas Schonder (a combined 44 yards rushing vs. Towson) will likely be called upon to contribute.

Last year's meeting with Villanova did not end well for the Tribe, as the

Wildcats scored a touchdown with 35 seconds remaining to win 35-31 at Zable Stadium in the College's homecoming game. The Tribe has the opportunity to return the favor this year, as Saturday's contest is Villanova's homecoming game.

Senior left tackle Brent Cochran stressed the importance of Saturday's game, as it is the first game in a two-game road trip that leads into the Tribe's final four games, all of which are against top-25 FCS opponents.

"This is a really huge game for us," Cochran said. "We could set the tone for the rest of the season Saturday night."

Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. in Villanova, Penn.



JON SEIDEN —
THE FLAT HAT
Senior RB
Tony Viola.

SPORTS FEATURE

‘Make it or break it’



ALEX HAGLUND — THE FLAT HAT

Redshirt freshman goalie Andrew McAdams is ranked 4th in the CAA in saves (35) this season.

Redshirt freshman goalkeeper Andrew McAdams
relishes the pressure of starting role for Tribe

By CHRIS WEIDMAN

Flat Hat Staff Writer

After the men's soccer team conceded nine goals in the first three games of the season, Andrew McAdams was given a chance to start in net for the Tribe. The redshirt-freshman goalie has helped transform the defense into one of the most formidable in the CAA, anchoring a backline that has held opponents to an average of one goal per game while registering two shutouts over the six games McAdams has started.

Through Oct. 1, McAdams ranked fourth in the CAA with a .814 save percentage. McAdams also ranked fourth in the CAA for total saves, recording 35 on the season.

"We are not going to be a high scoring team, but if we can keep the ball out of the net we will have a good chance," McAdams said. This defensive emphasis has led the Tribe to a 2-2-2 record over the last six games, including two tremendous ties against the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Virginia Tech.

"I like the feeling of it's all up to you. You are either the hero or in the doghouse. It is make it or break it. Everyone is depending on you and I like being put in that position," McAdams said.

"He is a very good shot stopper, has great reflexes, is very communicative and kicks the ball extremely well," Head Coach Chris Norris said. "His game as a whole is very well rounded; he is a very good goalkeeper."

Another strength in McAdams' game is his vocal input on the field.

"He provides us with a voice in the back and helps organize the defense," junior captain Doug McBride said.

"More and more it is difficult to find people who are willing to take control on the field and we are very happy that he is willing to accept that role," Norris said.

Not only has McAdams helped the team improve their play, he has also gained the support of his teammates. "He has a lot of respect from his teammates and is one of the hardest working guys," Norris said. When asked if the team can depend on McAdams to make the big save, McBride

responded, "absolutely."

Senior goalie Brennan Wergley and McAdams knew coming into preseason that they would compete for the starting position.

"In previous years the goalkeeping spot has been up for grabs. It has really been up to [Wergley and McAdams]. They are constantly battling for the position. [McAdams] is going to have to work to keep the starting role," McBride said.

Neither goalie stood out during the preseason, according to McAdams. Wergley eventually won the starting job thanks in part to his past experience with the College.

After a shaky 1-2 start of the season for the Tribe, McAdams was given a chance to start against Temple University following an appearance in the second half of a game against Ohio State University.

"As a team we were bad in that game. We wanted to give a number of people an opportunity to play," Norris said. "After the OSU game we made the decision [to start McAdams], following a week of training. We felt that Andrew separated himself and was a little sharper."

McAdams has capitalized on the opportunity.

"I worked hard in practice and they gave me a chance and everything has been good since," McAdams said. McAdams' confidence and stellar play has led him to be named the CAA Rookie of the Week. Ironically, the last Tribe player to be named Rookie of the Week was Wergley in 2005.

His recent success is no indication of how McAdams' soccer career began. After picking up soccer at age five, McAdams moved to goalie three years later.

"I was a lot slower than everyone else on the field so my coach put me in goal," McAdams said. The goalie has not looked back since his days as 'the slow kid.'"

Northwestern University, Brown University, Columbia University and the College were McAdams' top four choices.

"The great combination of good soccer and good academics [at the College] gave me the best chance to succeed," McAdams said.

The Tribe begins league play Friday night hosting Hofstra University.

FROM THE SIDELINES

A surprise-filled
four NFL weeks

Andy Andrews

FLAT HAT SPORTS COLUMNIST



We are just four weeks into the NFL season and already it has been full of surprises. Many might have expected the Patriots to start out 4-0, but few would have guessed that Brady would gel with his new receivers as well as he has this early in the season. Brady is putting up numbers that would make his baby's mama proud and, if he keeps his pace, even break records. Brady is leading the NFL with a 134.7 quarterback rating while new teammate and best friend Randy Moss is leading all receivers in both yards and touchdowns. Anyone who follows sports is aware of the Patriots' signal-stealing controversy that has been talked about more times than Bad Newz Kennels has abused dogs. In fact, part of the fine will be used to set up a charity that will use Belichick's torn sweatshirt sleeves and turn them into clothes for the needy.

San Diego (1-3) was a team that many picked to win the Super Bowl but has certainly gotten off to a rough start after last year's 14-2 season. Now San Diego is wondering, as do most teams that sign him, why the hell they hired Norv Turner. LaDainian Tomlinson, last year's MVP, has gotten off to a lackluster start as his team has been outscored 102-68.

The Saints (0-3), a team many picked to win the NFC, are off to an atrocious start and after a bye week hope to have some solutions to their many problems, including the loss of Deuce McAllister. But it's okay Saints fans, because Reggie Bush, with his astounding 2.8 yards per carry, says that he is all New Orleans needs to turn their season around.

The Eagles (1-3) were another team that many thought would compete in the NFC. As a Redskins fan, nothing made me happier than watching Donovan McNabb get sacked an NFL-record 12 times last Monday. With the exception of one game, McNabb has looked more lost than my parents trying to read The Flat Hat's sex column.

Another team off to a tremendous start is the Cowboys (4-0). Dallas is being led by Tony Romo, the top player in fantasy football right now (fortunately for me, I picked McNabb over him). The question is how long Jerry Jones will let new coach Wade Phillips stay in control once things fall apart.

Mark Bulger and the Rams (0-4) have started off so poorly that Bulger is being benched for Gus Frerotte. Yes, that Gus Frerotte. The same Gus Frerotte who ended his season 11 years ago by ramming his head into a cement wall after celebrating a touchdown. Needless to say, things don't seem to be getting much better for St. Louis.

However, this year's surprise of the season is none other than Brett Favre and the Green Bay Packers (4-0). The 38-year-old quarterback has already broken both the career victories and touchdown passes records this season.

Well, four weeks down and 13 left to go. The only thing you can be sure about is that they will be full of surprises and controversy.

Andy's Power Rankings

1. New England
2. Dallas
3. Indianapolis
4. Seattle
5. Pittsburgh

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